

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for 1967

MEMBERS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967:

MAYOR:

Councillor G. W. Jellings.

ALDERMEN:

R. W. P. Humphreys,
J. D. K. Lloyd.

COUNCILLORS:

R. I. Bainbridge,
D. P. Davies,
W. A. Gornall,
Rev. C. M. Semper,
W. H. Williams.

TOWN CLERK:

N. O. Davies, A.C.C.S.

TREASURER:

R. C. Williams.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Elinor M. Greville, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Welshpool Borough Council Offices,
Welshpool.
(District M.O.H. N.Monts).

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR:

H. J. Sleigh.



TO THE MONTGOMERY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1967, which has been drawn up according to the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health and includes the report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Sleigh.

I apologize for the delay in presenting the 1967 Annual Report, but, as you are aware, I was absent from duty for many months during 1967 and 1968 due to illness and accident.

A study of the Vital Statistics of the Area for the Year under consideration shows no change in the Registrar General's figure of the Estimated Mid-Year population over the 1966 figure: but, since the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 2, there was a natural decrease in the population. This must be related to the increased death and decreased birth rates.

Only 2 illegitimate births occurred out of a total of 10 births, resulting in a comparatively large increase in the illegitimacy rate, but in small populations this is an expected result; for this reason it is necessary to compare the trends of these rates over several years. A study of this trend from the years 1958 to 1967, inclusive, clearly demonstrates a fluctuation, as opposed to a steady increase in the rate.

In 1967 the chief cause of death, from heart disease, was the same as in the previous year. A break down of causes of heart disease resulting in deaths reveals that 50% of such deaths were from coronary heart disease. In 1966 the figures were the same. Deaths from malignancy were a close runner-up, with only one death from cancer of the lung (1 in 1966).

For the second year in succession notifications of infectious and other notifiable diseases were conspicuous by their absence. This is remarkable, in view of the fact that neighbouring localities experienced epidemics of measles and whooping cough and "mini-epidemics" - if one can use the term loosely - of "Scarlatina". It is possible that a few such cases did occur in the district, but being of a mild nature, the family doctor was not consulted; hence, the case not being notified. "Scarlatina" may present only a transient rash with mild constitutional symptoms, and yet, if it remains undiagnosed or untreated, kidney damage may ensue and cause chronic disease in later life.

No new cases of tuberculosis occurred and no notifications of food-poisoning were received by this department.

I would like to thank Mr. Sleigh for preparing and commenting upon the section of the report dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area. May I also thank Mr. Davies, the Town Clerk, Mr. Sleigh and the staff of the Borough Council Offices for their unremitting assistance to me in all aspects of my work during the past two years.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Elinor M. Greville.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1969.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28862430>

General Statistics of the District

Area - 3390 Acres.

Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population - 1,000.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books - 312.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1967 - £15397.

Product of a penny rate - £56. 12s. 11d.

Vital Statistics

Population

Estimated Mid-year 1967 - 1000

Estimated Mid-year 1966 - 1000

Estimated Mid-year 1965 - 980

Estimated Mid-year 1964 - 970

Estimated Mid-year 1963 - 970

Estimated Mid-year 1962 - 950

These figures show no change in the population since 1966. The 1967 live births stood at the figure of 10; since the number of deaths was 12 there was a natural decrease in the population of 2.

Births and Deaths

Live Births - Total 10

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	5	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	NIL	2	2
Total	...	...	...	3	7	10

Crude Birth Rate - 10.0 per 1,000 population (15.00 per 1,000 in 1966).

Corrected Birth Rate - 10.5 per 1,000 population (after applying the Area Comparability figure) - 15.75 per 1,000 in 1966.

Illegitimacy Rate - 20% of total births (6.67% in 1966).

Illegitimacy Rate Trends

(1958 - 1967)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Montgomery Borough</u>	<u>Monts County</u>
1958	Nil	3.8
1959	20.0 *	5.1
1960	6.3	4.4
1961	5.9	4.2
1962	5.9	5.5
1963	12.0	4.4
1964	Nil	4.9
1965	8.7	6.98
1966	6.7	7.4
1967	20.0 **	7.2

* 4 illegitimate births : 20 total births
** 2 " " : 10 " "

Stillbirths - Nil.

(There were only 2 Stillbirths during past 7 years)

Still Birth Rate - Nil.

Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - Nil (only one has occurred during the past 7 years).

Cont/over

Total Infant Mortality Rate - Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births - Nil.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) - Nil.

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) - Nil.

Perinatal Mortality Rate - Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - Nil.

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Deaths - (All Causes) 12 (19 in 1966).

Male	...	...	...	...	...	7
Female	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967
IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY

	Sex	Total All Ages	Age in Years				
			15-24	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-	-
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	1	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	M	2	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents *	M	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	7	1	2	-	2	2
	F	5	-	1	1	1	2
GRAND TOTAL	M & F	12	1	3	1	3	4

* Male, 22 years, from multiple injuries received in a car accident.

Chief Causes of Death

- 1) Heart disease (50% from Coronary heart disease) = $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of all deaths.
- 2) Malignant disease (25% from Cancer of the lung) = $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of all deaths.
- (In England & Wales in 1967 Male deaths from all forms of Cancer totalled 59,621 of which 39% were from Cancer of the lung).

Crude Death Rate - 12.00 per 1,000 population (19.00 in 1966).

Corrected Death Rate - 12.72 per 1,000 population (after applying Comparability Factor) - (22.04 in 1966).

BIRTH AND DEATH TRENDS (1963 - 1967)
(Montgomery Borough)

Year	Birth Rate (corrected)	Death Rate (corrected)
1963	26.00	13.15
1964	14.1	16.73
1965	24.64	8.65
1966	15.75	22.04
1967	10.5	12.72

In order to compare the birth and death rates of one locality with those of another it is necessary to determine whether the two populations are comparable in point of age; if they are not, then certain corrections must be made. The Registrar General provides figures known as the "Comparability Factors" for this purpose, but in 1967 even after applying these factors to the Crude Birth and Death rates, the corrected Birth Rate was still lower and the corrected Death Rate still higher than the corresponding rates for the county and England and Wales.

Comparative Statistics 1967)

	Montgomery Borough	Montg. County	England & Wales (Provision- al figures)
Birth Rate (corrected)	10.5	14.04	17.2
Stillbirth Rate	Nil	1.6%	1.48
* Illegitimacy Rate	20.0%	7.2%	8.4 (provisional)
Infant Mortality Rate (Total)	Nil	13.1	18.3
** Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	Nil	6.5	12.5
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	Nil	6.5	10.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate	Nil	22.9	25.4
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil	0.20
Death Rate (corrected)	12.72	10.28	11.2

* Caused by only 2 illegitimate births. ** Lowest ever recorded.

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF FIVE SANITARY AUTHORITIES
IN N. MONTGOMERYSHIRE

1967

Sanitary District	Popul- ation	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Stillbirth Rate % of live births	Illegitimate Birth Rate % of total births	Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Tuberculosis Death Rate per million population
Llanfyllin M.B.	1,230	10.57	Nil	7.7	Nil	12.0	** 813
Montgomery M.B.	1,000	10.00	Nil	* 20.0	Nil	12.00	Nil
Welshpool M.B.	6,600	15.91	1.9	5.6	19.0	9.55	** 152
Llanfyllin R.D.	8,860	13.20	0.9	6.8	Nil	10.50	Nil
Forden R.D.	5,140	16.15	2.4	7.1	Nil	8.95	Nil

* This was caused by 2 such births.
** " " " " only 1 such death.

Cont/over

Infectious Disease Control

For the second year in succession no infectious or other notifiable diseases were reported. This seems remarkable when one considers that an epidemic of measles and whooping cough occurred in three adjoining districts.

Immunization

Vaccination and immunization against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox are offered at the County Welfare Clinics to infants and school children. Poliomyelitis vaccination is also offered to persons at risk and other adults below the age of 40 years.

Smallpox vaccination is no longer compulsory, but with ever increasing numbers of immigrants entering the country, and the expansion of air travel, the risk of the disease being introduced into Great Britain from areas where smallpox is endemic is greater. For this reason it is important that infants should be vaccinated in their second year of life.

By the end of 1967, 3,714 children had been immunized against tetanus.

Vaccination against tuberculosis with the Bacille-Guerin-Calmette Vaccine was carried out on children at Welshpool and Newtown High Schools; 171 were successfully vaccinated.

No new cases of tuberculosis were reported during the year and no death occurred from this cause.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued their visits to the county at intervals and examined General Practitioner referrals, members of the public and, in addition, they made surveys of selected groups (e.g. Hospitals, factories).

General Health Services

The County Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the personal health services of the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

(1) Water

The Montgomeryshire Water Board is responsible for water supplies. Supplies were satisfactory during the year. Ten samples were taken for analysis and in each case the report was highly satisfactory.

(2) Drainage & Sewerage

During the year a contract was let to connect to the sewer thirteen houses that were either connected to septic tanks or to an old piped ditch that discharged into a watercourse. Work was completed and the watercourse now carries surface water only.

Four samples of effluent from the sewage disposal plant were satisfactory.

(3) Public Cleansing

Refuse is collected fortnightly by contract with Forden Rural District Council and is tipped on land approximately one mile from the town.

(4) Shops

All were inspected and no action was necessary.

(5) Vermin

A Rodent Operative is employed jointly with Forden Rural District, Welshpool Borough and Llanfyllin Rural District. Complaints were made during the year and treatments given. There were no serious infestations.

Number of inspections	58
Premises treated	51

Materials used:

Sausage rusk	50 lbs
Oatmeal	126 lbs
Zinc Phosphide	5 lbs
Antu	2 lbs

(6) General

There are no camping sites nor swimming pools and there were no complaints of smoke nuisance.

Housing etc.

Housing

Ten houses were built by the Council in Tan-y-Mur and were used to rehouse the occupants of houses that had been condemned previously.

Land was acquired in Kerry Street & Back Lane and a contract let to build 3 houses in Kerry Street and 5 bungalows and two houses in Back Lane.

The houses in Kerry Street were completed and good progress made on the remainder.

One house was built by private enterprise.

One house was modernised with the aid of improvement grant.

Factories

There are no outworkers in the Borough but seven factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. All were inspected and no action was necessary.

Thirteen premises are on the Register of Offices and Shops. Nine were inspected and no action was necessary.

Inspection of Food

Milk

The district is served by outside retailers. All of the milk retailed is pasteurised.

Meat

The slaughterhouse is now closed and the premises used for other purposes.

84 lbs of food was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption and was destroyed. This was mainly due to a deep freeze fault when the contents thawed out.

